

Message Text

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14

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILL, MARR, CA, BEXP

SUBJ: DND CHOOSES SWISS ARMORED CAR

REF: STATE 154411, JULY 2, 1975

1. OTTAWA JOURNAL ON FEBRUARY 18 PUBLISHED ARTICLE BY CORRESPONDENT JACK BEST ENTITLED "SWISS ARMORED CAR GETS NOD, FINAL CHOICE IN POLITICAL ARENA." ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVENCE (DND) HAS SELECTED THE SWISS "PIRANHA" AS THE NEW ARMORED CAR FOR CANADIAN FORCES.
2. PURCHASE COULD BE WORTH UP TO DOLLARS 200 MILLION OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS IF APPROVED, SINCE ACCORDING TO BEST, SEVERAL HUNDRED VEHICLES WOULD BE BOUGHT UNDER A PHASED PROCUREMENT PROGRAM. IF COULD BE MANUFACTURED BY GENERAL MOTORS OF CANADA UNDER LICENSE.
3. BEST POINTS OUT THAT FINAL DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE TREASURY BOARD AND THAT OTHER "POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS COULD FIGURE IN THE FINAL DECISION. IT IS KNOWN FOR INSTANCE THAT THE LATIN AMERICA DIVISION OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE THE CONTRACT GIVEN TO THE BRAZILIANS TO HELP EVEN UP THE BALANCE SHEET BETWEEN CANDA AND BRAZIL".

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CANADA HAS A LARGE TRADE SURPLUS WITH BRAZIL

WHILE IT HAD A TRADE DEFICIT OF AROUND DOLLARS 100
MILLION WITH SWITZERLAND.

4. BEST CONCLUDES HIS ARTICLE BY SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH
THE BRAZILIAN URUTU VEHICLE WAS RUNNER-UP, THE
DND'S PREFERENCE "....WAS ESTABLISHED IN A SERIES OF
TESTS, INCLUDING COLD WEATHER TESTS....".

5. COMMENT: BEST IS PROBABLY CORRECT IN INDICATING
THAT A FINAL DECISION IS FAR FROM HAVING BEEN MADE,
PARTICULARLY IF THE SLOW SPEED WITH WHICH OTHER DEFENSE
DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PAST IS ANY PRESEDENT.
ONE MAY SURMISE THAT THE DND HAS MADE KNOWN ITS PREFERENCES
TO BEST IN AN EFFORT TO BUILD UP ITS CASE.
ENDERS

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